Appl. No. 09/495,622
Amdt. dated December 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2003

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 13 with:

A1   The computer 100 further comprises a WinSock/WinInet component 108 or equivalent networking interface, a TCP/IP or other netware protocol subsystem 112, a network hardware and driver module [[112]] 116, or alternatively a modem and modem driver 120, or both. The network hardware and driver module 116 provides an Ethernet connection to server 132.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

A2   The computer 100(2) is similarly configured as computer 100(1) except that the application/messaging module 104 does not have to be present in computer 100(2). However, computer 100(2) has [[a]] an electronic mail messaging program 145 or equivalent (e.g. browser based [[email]] e-mail reader - such as Hotmail (TM) HOTMAIL™) to receive and view electronic mail messages in the conventional manner. In a preferred embodiment, the electronic mail messaging program is capable of reading e-mails with embedded Hypertext Markup language Language (HTML).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 with:

A3   Then, a message form for containing the message is generated 208. The message form is used to receive message information and message text from the sender, including recipient data such as the recipient's [[email]] e-mail address and name. One example of a message form 400 is shown in Figure [[4a]] 4b. The message information may be text as shown in Fig. 4a or 4b 4b or 4c or in an alternate embodiment may be recorded audio, video or a combination of any of these. Next, a composite message is created 212. The composite message combines the message information from the message form and the multimedia information into a single display. Figure 7 illustrates one format of a composite message 700, an electronic postcard. However, any other message format in which multimedia and text information can be displayed is considered to be

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within the scope of the present invention. In one embodiment, the composite message itself is used to receive message information directly from the user without the intermediate message form 400.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 1 with:

Figure 6 is a flowchart illustrating an embodiment of sending [[an]] a composite message in accordance with the present invention. First, after the sender completes entry of data into the message form, the composite message generation module 106 displays 600 the composite message to the sender. In this embodiment, the option of sending the message is displayed 604, or canceling the message. If the sender does not want to send the message, the composite message generation module 106 returns 608 control to the application module 105, and the execution resumes from the point at which the sender initiated the composite message generation module 106 originally. If the sender does want to send the message, the image is converted [[608]] 610 to a compressed format, for example, in JPEG, to prepare the image for transmission. Any other means of compression could also be used to compress the image suitably for transmission.